

*ON*  
FIG. 2 is a side view of the deflection clip of FIG. 1 operatively slidingly engaging the vertical framing member web during deflection between the framing assembly members.

*NY*  
Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 4 with the following paragraph:

*NY*  
FIG. 3 is a side view of only the deflection clip of FIG. 1.

*R*  
Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 5 with the following paragraph:

*R*  
FIG. 4 is a side view of a deflection clip similar to FIG. 3 but constructed in accordance with an alternative embodiment of the present invention.

*NY*  
Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 14 with the following paragraph:

*NY*  
FIG. 9 is a side view of the deflection clip of FIG. 8.

*AB*  
Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 27 with the following paragraph:

*AB*  
FIG. 3 is a side view of the clip 100 of FIG. 1 with the web 128 omitted to better illustrate the channel 126. The opposing arms 122, 124 can be selectively spatially disposed to define the width 129 of the channel 126. By selectively setting the width 129 relative to the thickness 133 (FIG. 2) of the web 128, a desired frictional resistance to the operative sliding engagement is achieved. That is, in one embodiment the width 129 is substantially the same or greater than the thickness 133 so that the web 128 is receivingly engaged within the channel 126. In an alternative embodiment the width is substantially less than the thickness 133, as in FIG. 4, so that the arms 122, 124 compressingly engage

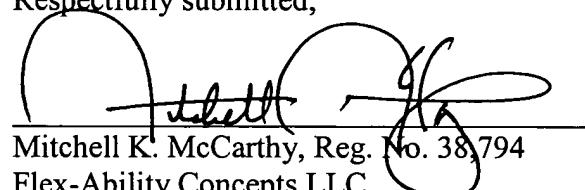
*as  
com* against the web 128, resulting in an operative positive engagement between the clip 100 and the second member 104.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 9 with the following paragraph:

*as  
a* FIG. 8 is an isometric view of a clip 100B constructed in accordance with an alternative embodiment of the present invention, offering an illustrative construction comprising an assembly of discrete components. The clip 100B has a base 114B comprising a first surface 116B and an opposing second surface 118B. The clip 100B further comprises a guide 120B depending from the base 114B, the guide 120B comprising a first arm 122B extending along a longitudinal axis substantially transverse to the base plate 114B from a proximal end adjacent the second surface 118B. The guide 120B further comprises a second arm 124B extending away from the base 114B oriented in the same direction as the first arm 122B defining a channel 126B between the arms 122B, 124B. The clip 100B is attachable to the horizontal framing member (not shown but as in FIG. 1) such as by fasteners passing through the apertures 119B in the base 114B. The guide 120B receivably engages the vertical member (not shown but as in FIG. 1) in a characteristic operative sliding relationship. FIG. 9 is a side view of the clip 100B, illustrating how in the same manner of clip 100A of FIGS. 6 and 7, the apertures 119B can be disposed symmetrically around the channel 126B to minimize moments imparted to the framing members during deflection.

This Preliminary Amendment does not add any new matter nor does it require any additional or different search by the Examiner. The Applicant's agent may be contacted directly for any matter associated with this case.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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